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The diversity problem at USD

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The University of San Diego is located at a diverse crosspoint of many backgrounds.

At the heart of USD's mission statement is a dedication to promote diversity and inclusion, yet many students and faculty campuswide feel there is a disparity between the ideal and the reality.

USD reports that, as of 2014, its demographic breakdown is 33 percent minority students and 7 percent international students.

The university has attempted to address this problem with its diversity plan initiated in 2003 that is intended to be fully effective by 2020. In this strategic action plan, USD's Center for Inclusion and Diversity said that it hopes to

increase diversity and inclusion efforts and resources available on campus.

"USD will become a more culturally diverse and culturally competent community through recruitment at all levels, deepening transborder and international educational partnerships, and involving students and faculty in international learning experiences," the plan said.

Through the work of the United Front Multicultural Center (UFMC) and the Center for Inclusion and Diversity, USD said it has made efforts to respect human dignity of the greater

campus community as well as its diverse cultural background, regardless of race, faith, or sexuality.

"The university is committed to creating a welcoming, inclusive and collaborative community accentuated by a spirit of freedom and charity; and marked by protection of the rights and dignity of the individual," the UFMC website said. "The university values students, faculty and staff from different backgrounds and faith traditions and is committed to creating an atmosphere of trust, safety and respect in a community characterized by a rich diversity of

people and ideas."

The USD community believes there is a disparity between the minority and the majority students on campus.

Aaron Rivera-Dominguez is a USD senior who addressed the promises that USD made to incoming students, especially about diversity. In an email to President Mary E. Lyons, Rivera-Dominguez cited a testimony from a #BlackLivesMatter event that addressed this problem, specifically in light of the Ferguson discussion.

"I quote to you the words of a student who believed that lie [of

diversity]," Rivera-Dominguez said. "When I first applied to this school, I was excited. I saw the Changemaker slogan—it's pushed really, really hard. I've always been a socially-conscious person. But, in the last two months, I have been ashamed, embarrassed to be a part of this campus because there has been a silence that has been so oppressive. I don't understand how we could have let this happen. This campus needs to take responsibility."

Lina Wallace is a sophomore who works as an intern at

See DIVERSITY, Page 2

USD mourns the victims from Chapel Hill Shooting



Photos courtesy of Nick Blir

Students walked to the Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice to mourn the deceased Muslim students.

CAITLAN BERTRAM
CONTRIBUTOR

On Monday, Feb. 16, students from the freshman Social Justice Living Learning Community (LLC), Muslim Student Association (MSA), Muslim Fraternity at University of California San Diego, and San Diego residents gathered to mourn the victims.

Shots fired and three Muslim college students were dead in an apartment near the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. On Tuesday, Feb.

10, Deah Barakat, 23, his new wife Yusor Abu-Salha, 21, and the wife's younger sister Razan Abu-Salha, 19, were shot in the head by Craig Stephen Hicks, 24.

Police say an ongoing dispute over a parking space could be the motivation for the murder. Chapel Hill law enforcement tells the public that Hicks found a car in his claimed parking space, went to the victims condo, and killed them during a confrontation. Hicks turned himself into authorities hours after the shooting and has been charged with first degree murder of the three victims.

Grieving family members of

the victims call the murder a hate crime. However, investigators are hesitant to classify the crime as an act of hatred. North Carolina does not have any legislation regarding laws against hate crimes, therefore such acts must be brought to the attention of the federal government. Police will continue to investigate whether this act was a hate crime or whether it was motivated by the dispute over the parking space.

Freshman Shelby Brookner organized the event with the MSA and Social Justice LLC.

"I decided to coordinate

See VIGIL, Page 3

U.S. presidential race stays cool as candidates are still up in the air

GIANNA CARAVETTA
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

Barack Obama's second term as president of the United States is beginning to come to an end, and many potential candidates for 2016 are emerging.

Campaign season is underway. Polls are starting to point out all of those vying for the presidency, from potential candidates to frontrunners for every political party. For the Republican Party, hopefuls include former Florida governor Jeb Bush, former Texas governor Rick Perry, and Florida senator Marco Rubio. For the Democratic Party, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, former Virginia senator Jim Webb, and former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley are expected to run. It is still unclear who is running and who is simply exploring his or her option to run for the presidency.

Students and professors at the University of San Diego are already predicting their top picks for the candidacy.

Del Dickson is a political science and international relations professor and the pre-law advisor. Dickson said he predicts that the potential future president might be under the radar.

"The chances are good that the person who will win is not in the race yet," Dickson said. "I would not put my own money on any candidate to win at this point; it would just be a wild guess. There are far too many variables at play, and too many things that can randomly go wrong — or right — for any candidate, to be confident about anyone's chances."

Others are more certain of who the potential candidates are.

Jesus Martinez is a USD freshman who said that he believes with some certainty who will run and who will be a standout candidate for each party.

"I feel that Hillary Clinton and Joe Biden are most likely to run for the Democrats, and Jeb Bush, Chris Christie, and Scott Walker for the Republicans," Martinez said. "[I predict] the potential presidential forerunners will be Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush."

Still others agree that it is unknown who will run.

Casey Dominguez is an associate professor in the political science and international relations department. Dominguez said that although it is too early to say who will definitely be competing for the presidency, there are some certainties.

See POLITICS, Page 2

NEWS 1-3

USD examines its diversity footprint

Students and faculty reflect on the topic of diversity at USD

BUSINESS 4-5

San Diego working on affordable housing

Initiatives are in place to help low-to middle-income families

OPINION 6-7

Make your Lenten sacrifice matter

Lent has become less sacrificial and more selfish for many USD students

FEATURE 8-11

Spring into shape

USD students are getting active in fitness on and off campus

ARTS AND CULTURE 12-13

'Kingsman' review

Movie surprises audiences with wit and action

SPORTS 14-16

Men's tennis defeats No. 21 South Carolina

Toreros are excited to compete in the WCC

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Superficial empowerment



SARAH BREWINGTON
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It is sad that our culture can make so much progress but still manage to take a step back whenever we take two steps forward. We see more messages telling people to be themselves rather than to fit into a mold; one step forward. However the movie industry is a little slow, dragging media a step backward.

I am talking about the movie "The DUFF" and other makeover movies. Do not mistake me, I enjoy some of these movies as much as the next person. But when "The DUFF" came out, I was disappointed when I saw the trailer. I will not be going to see the movie because it reinforces an ideal that society seems to be trying to get away from.

DUFF stands for "designated ugly fat friend." In the trailer the popular guy tells the "DUFF" to prove the popular kids wrong. I do not really care so much about the movie, as I do about Hollywood bringing attention to the acronym. It is shallow and depressing that *someone would invent such a name.*

Why is it that makeover movies are usually about a girl fitting in with the popular crowd, and eventually getting a boyfriend, usually the guy that told her to change her appearance? Hollywood could be a leader in fixing the body images of teenage girls, as well as guys, instead of making junk like this. Granted it is Hollywood, where, according to Russell Brand, plastic surgery is like going to the dentist.

Teenagers are insecure, and these movies reinforce that. For the guys, the idea is that in order for Hollywood to make a movie about a teenage girl, she needs to be with the hot popular boy. Sorry it is the rule. And, for the girl, if she does not look like the Barbie doll that American women are supposed to look like, then we can fix her.

These makeover movies try to justify themselves in the end by letting the main character be herself. But there are still too many themes in the rest of the movie that do not support this: the fact that she had to get a makeover in the first place, that there has to be a popular guy who everyone finds attractive, and that there are mean girls and bullies.

Unfortunately, makeover movies seem to reinforce shallow societal norms, rather than tear any of them down. And movies that supposedly inspire you to be yourself also tell you that you are not good enough. Makeover movies are not some burning torch inciting a revolution of identity, they are the white flag of surrender telling you that you may want to be yourself, but your surroundings tell you not to.

THE VISTA Students and faculty reflect on diversity in the USD community

DIVERSITY continued from Front Page

the UPMC. Wallace finds the separation of the students to be an important aspect of USD's attempt to improve diversity around campus.

"There is a disparity in the way that we specifically define diversity," Wallace said. "We talk about diversity all the time, but, when we talk about diversity at USD, it seems we're not always all on the same page with the problem that we're talking about. I think people hear 'diversity,' and they think numbers and statistics. There are no set boundaries or topics and a list of ideas to cover."

Other students like Wallace find that the separation between the majority and minorities needs to be addressed.

Tarek Lemmons is a USD senior and vice president of the Black Student Union. Lemmons believes that the disparity is due to student interest.

"We really only leave, for example, the black issues on campus to the Black Student Resource Center or the Black Student Union," Lemmons said. "This makes it seem like the racism that happens on campus is a black issue, when it's a USD issue. [...] On top of that fact, the black student retention rate here at USD is roughly 5 percent."

Of that 5 percent, 90 percent of black women are retained and only 40 percent of black men are [retained]."

Lemmons finds that solutions to this problem lie in the commitment to include all students in the conversation of diversity.

"If [USD] brought white students into an environment committed to diversity, it would not be so hard to get black and minority students acclimated," Lemmons said. "We bring minority students here on the lie that USD is diverse. However, what about the white students who are coming here because it isn't diverse?"

Students like Lemmons and Wallace believe there is a separation between the racial minority and majority students on campus. However, some students find that the issue is not an issue at all.

Niccolo Piacentini is a senior at USD who finds that USD does not need to focus on inclusion.

"Viewing others as different is not the problem, treating them as such is," Piacentini said. "Inclusion is not something that needs to be specifically addressed. To achieve inclusion, one must first eliminate exclusion."

Similar to Piacentini, other students argue that while there are no diversity issues between the administration and minority

students necessarily, there are issues amongst students.

Diana Sanchez is a USD sophomore and the treasurer of Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano/a de Aztlán (MEChA). Sanchez believes that USD does an exceptional job of including the minority students in the campus life.

"I don't feel that there is a disparity between minority students and the university, especially because they offer so many resources for us like the UPMC," Sanchez said. "The only disparity I feel sometimes is between the minority students and the majority students."

Similar to students, USD faculty find that, to achieve diversity, the community must focus on certain aspects.

Eric Pierson is a professor in the department of communication studies who said that USD as a whole must understand the value of empathy to achieve a campus with effective inclusion.

"The trick is to have empathy without judgment," Pierson said. "If you are going to 'empathize' with a person, but then the next thing you say is 'that's not a decision I would make,' then you are not really empathizing with that person. You're not fully embracing and understanding the condition and circumstances where people

have to make decisions."

Members of the USD community have felt that their race is inseparable from their personal experiences.

USD sophomore Gabrielle Bon Durant finds that her race has helped inform her experience in being a part of the USD community.

"I have the unique perspective of being a student who has a parent who is Black and another parent who is Caucasian," Bon Durant said. "I know what it is to be 'other.' I grew up in a fairly diverse community, [...] and I didn't think about race much until I arrived here at USD. USD is significantly more homogenized than my hometown, and there are remarkable disparities in exposure, cultural sensitivity and inclusion."

Bon Durant, as well as other community members, uses her own experiences to reflect on diversity at USD.

Bahar Davary is an associate professor in the theology and religious studies department who believes that her affiliation as a minority has helped shape her choices during her life.

"My work is in many ways devoted to understanding the subject and social positions of others, including but not limited to their race, gender, sex, sexuality,

See DIVERSITY, Page 3

USD discusses the upcoming presidential campaign race

POLITICS continued from Front Page

"It is too early to make predictions, but, in general, the better the economy at the beginning of next year, the better the prospects for the incumbent party, the Democrats," Dominguez said. "I have no special knowledge about who will run, but everyone seems to be assuming Hillary Clinton will run, and, if she does, it is likely that she will win the Democratic nomination, in part because everyone else in the party seems unwilling to run against her."

Dickson and Dominguez do agree that the two possible frontrunners from the democratic and republican parties are Clinton and Bush, son to former president George H.W. Bush and brother to former president George W. Bush.

Dickson said that he expects Bush to be the GOP frontrunner primarily because he has well-established support and has fundraised the most to date. Dickson believes Clinton to be the frontrunner of the Democratic Party due to her similar established support but also because she has basically scared off her competition.

Dominguez believes that, although it seems these two are prominent members of their respective parties, the Republican field is very competitive this year and Bush would not be a sure frontrunner.

One of the biggest questions pundits and the American people alike are asking is if America is ready for Clinton.

Dominguez said that

Clinton's chance at the presidency is influenced by many different factors.

"She has a lot of goodwill in the party from her last run for the presidency and her service as Secretary of State," Dominguez said. "It remains to be seen whether the American people are 'ready for Hillary.' Her gender might have some small, probably negative, effect on her chances of winning, but that will be dwarfed by the effect of the economy on the race."

However, Dickson said that Americans are ready for a woman president, but he believes it is Clinton's last time to run for office.

"This is almost certainly Ms. Clinton's last chance to run," Dickson said. "If this is not her time, her time will pass irretrievably into history. The American people are certainly ready for a woman president, but it is not clear whether that woman is Hillary Clinton."

Some political pundits and American people, like Dickson, argue that this is Clinton's last year to run, as she is 67 years old now and will be 73 at the next election cycle in 2020.

Sophomore Cheyenne Carlborg is a political science major. Carlborg agrees with Dickson that this year is Clinton's year to get elected.

"If any year is going to be Hillary's year, this is it," Carlborg said. "However, the American people aren't ready for her. Even though this country made progress with Barack Obama becoming the first African-American president, people just aren't willing to accept that a woman can become

president, and this is disheartening. [...] I haven't seen anyone more fit for the job than Hillary."

Some also argue that there is no general consensus among the American people as to what they are looking for in a president.

Dickson said that Americans are not in agreement yet about the next president.

"There is no clear consensus at this point," Dickson said. "There isn't even a consensus among the Republican or Democratic faithful as to who they want to run. [...] At this point, 90% of the American people are not paying attention, 9% are paying attention but worried that there are still almost two years to go in the election cycle, and 1% of the population is actively engaged because their pocketbooks and/or jobs depend directly on the outcome."

Dominguez agreed that the general consensus among the American people is that there is no consensus. She said the important thing to note is that there can be no consensus if the two candidates are basically campaigning for a few counties, let alone only a few states.

"If only one candidate runs for the Democratic nomination, Democrats won't have much choice but to get behind that candidate - Clinton - and some progressives will be unhappy, but will probably support her anyway," Dominguez said. "On the Republican side, Republican voters will get behind the candidate that they believe is the best representative of their party, and a competitive nomination contest will force that person to prove their conservative credentials."

Others argue there are key issues up for debate this election season, including terrorist groups abroad, the national debt, immigration reform, and health care. Carlborg said that Americans need someone who will highlight how to solve these issues with a definitive plan of action for domestic and foreign problems.

"[The American people] need a strong candidate who wants to actually make a change, not just win the race," Carlborg said. "I think one of the main issues in the upcoming election, if the issue persists at the rate it is at now, will be how to handle ISIS and terrorist groups abroad. We need a candidate that will actually stand out and bring something new to the table, both domestically and abroad."

Martinez agrees that the candidates for all parties need to have a plan how to solve crises currently facing Americans.

"I feel that the presidential candidates for the elections of 2016 need to speak to America's families about the economic crisis in our country and changes in education, infrastructure, and research," Martinez said.

Dickson said that a candidate must have certain resources and qualities for the American people to get behind him or her.

"To win, a candidate needs unlimited money, ambition, determination, organization, connections, and luck," Dickson said.

Campaign season will be officially starting soon. It will not be long until things will start heating up as the U.S. begins the processes of electing a new president.

Public Safety Report

Feb. 12 Location: Maher Hall

At approximately 11:24 a.m., The Department of Public Safety responded to a report of someone who had written an explicit letter that was left on a USD resident student's dorm room door. After documenting the evidence, the Community Director removed the letter on the door and contacted the resident student.

Feb. 13 Location: Coronado

Shortly after 4:12 p.m., The Department of Public Safety responded to a report of a student who had made some offensive and highly disturbing comments in class, that made other students feel uncomfortable and threatened. This incident is currently under investigation.

Feb. 14 Location: Maher Hall

At approximately 7:55 p.m., The Department of Public Safety responded to a report of two Resident Assistants who had made contact with a resident student with marijuana. Upon investigation, the Community Director authorized a room search of the resident hall. Public Safety located and confiscated alcohol and a medical cannabis chocolate bar.

Feb. 16 Location: Laguna Hall

At approximately 8:57 p.m., The Department of Public Safety responded to a report of an intoxicated individual. Upon investigation, the individual was contacted, identified as a resident student, and evaluated. It was determined that the individual was able to care for themselves and was released to their residence.

Feb. 17 Location: Maher Hall

At approximately 5:07 p.m., The Department of Public Safety responded to a report of two suspicious males who are non-USD members near Maher Hall. Upon investigation, Public Safety was made aware of an active warrant involving one of the subjects. San Diego Police Department was contacted and then took custody of the individual. Please see Department of Public Safety's website Safety Alerts for additional information.

Feb. 18 Location: Marian Way

At approximately 1:09 a.m., The Department of Public Safety responded to a report of an intoxicated individual. Upon investigation, the individual was contacted, identified as a resident student, and evaluated. It was determined that the individual could not care for themselves and they were voluntarily transported to Detox.

Feb. 18 Location: Serra Hall West Parking Lot

Shortly before 12:00 p.m., The Department of Public Safety responded to a report of a theft of a Faculty/Staff parking permit from a Nissan Altima. The vehicle was parked and possibly left unsecured at the Serra Hall west parking lot. Upon investigation, the USD staff member last used their vehicle on Feb. 17, 2015, at approximately 10:00 p.m. On Feb. 17, 2015, the staff member had returned to their vehicle and noticed that the parking permit was missing.

Nora Brewington/The Vista

How diversity affects students and faculty on campus

DIVERSITY continued
from Page 2

religion, and economic state or status," Davary said. "Perhaps, more importantly, I think the work of a university should be largely about understanding ourselves, others, and our world, and the relationships that exist between

them. Doing so may be one of the few ways to create and sustain empathy."

The USD community is both connected personally and experientially to the growing discussion of diversity, especially on campus.

One of the six main focuses of the diversity plan is to strengthen

USD's campus culture. USD explained campus culture as the daily experiences of the university community which is, as they said, very influential. Specifically, USD explains how it relates to the campus climate, that is how the nuances of each individual's experiences interact.

To achieve a stronger campus

culture, the university's diversity plan has set goals. To promote an effective campus culture, the university's first goal is to foster a community for all groups, one in which everyone is mutually respectful and contributes his and her individuality. The university's second goal is to strategize a way for which all community members

are in a mutual understanding. Its last goal is to develop a way to routinely measure the campus climate.

As USD works toward improving its diversity and inclusion footprint, invested students and faculty campuswide look forward to more discussions and more positive, visible changes.

Students reflect on Chapel Hill shooting with a candlelight vigil

VIGIL continued from
Front Page

this event because I'm a human and care about other people dying," Brookner said.

College campuses around the nation were holding remembrance vigils. Brookner said it was important for USD to come together after such a tragic event.

"My best friend is having an event on their campus at San Diego State University and I asked, 'Why aren't we?' So, I decided to do something," Brookner said.

The community gathered in front of the The Immaculata Parish for the candlelight vigil where speakers led the crowd to the Reflection Pool behind the Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice.

The President of MSA, Huda

Kahin, explained that she wanted to provide a service for students, however she, was unsure about the students religious affiliation.

"Of course when we heard of what happened in Chapel Hill, my E-board and I all wanted to do something but we were really hesitant," Kahin said. "I say this because when we've had MSA events, it's easy for students who don't affiliate with Islam to think they're not welcome to them. So it was really nice to see all kinds of people in the community come to pay their respects."

One freshman, Kiko Lamb, from North Carolina attended the same high school as the victims. She expressed how this unfortunate event was close to her heart.

"It was very important for me to go to the vigil since

they were people who I saw in the hallways of my high school almost everyday," Lamb said. "Although I never had the honor to personally meet them and become closer friends with them, they were still part of my Athens Drive High School family and deserve the support of that family."

Third year Ph.D. student and leadership professor, Kenyon Whitman, attended the event with several students from his course.

"I would say that the vigil was a very reflective space to mourn the loss of young peoples' lives that were taken away way too short," Whitman said. "Having the USD community come together was a reminder that we need to continue to join in community and stand in solidarity with our Muslim brothers and sisters."



Photo courtesy of Nick Bihr

Students recognized the tragedy of the deaths of the Muslim students.

USD came together as friends, neighbors, and colleagues, to remember the lives of Deah Barakat, Yusor Abu-Salha, and Razan Abu-Salha.

Part of USD's Catholic Social Teaching is "concern for human life in society." This value

is important to the school because, as a community, USD comes together in times of tragedy and loss for students on the other side of the nation regardless of religious affiliations. They are impacted by the greater world community and treasure the lives of others.

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THE VISTA

Equal pay for women, please



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In 2014, a full-time female employee earned 82.5 percent of what a male earned, which is a step up from 1979 when women only made 62 percent of what men earned.

I think it is time for women to start earning the same wages as men.

Most jobs women participate in today have a small gender pay gap, however there are some professions that are lagging behind and are closer to the 1979 earning difference.

USA Today and Wall Street 24/7, using the U.S. Bureau of Statistics', generated a list of 10 jobs with the largest pay gap. The information used to collect this data included men and women working at least 35 hours a week yearly.

These jobs included: personal financial advisors; physicians and surgeons; securities, commodities and financial service sales agents; financial managers; top executives; retail salespersons; human resource managers; bartenders; real estate brokers and sales agents; and drivers, sales workers and truck drivers.

The range in pay disparity is between 62.2 percent at the highest, which is in the physicians and surgeons profession, and 73.7 percent at the lowest, which is in the drivers, sales workers and truck drivers professions.

In these jobs, advances are often factors of the wage gap. Six out of ten of these jobs had commission based pay structures, available bonuses, merit based pay, or some combination of the three.

These advances often favor male employees, and that is outrageous. Women should be paid just as much as men, especially if they are doing the same work.

There is no reason for such a wide gap between what male and female employees earn. Favoritism of gender should not be tolerated, especially in the professional sphere.

Another factor that leads to a pay gap is the representation of women. Six out of the ten occupations with the worst pay gaps were jobs where women were the minority.

I think this is wrong. Just because someone is in a minority should never mean discrimination in their pay.

Medical jobs seemed to have a good reason for pay disparity, since women often choose professions that allow for flexible hours so they can manage being at home and working.

However, even in fields where women dominate, like pediatrics, women still earn less than men.

This disparity in pay based on gender is a blemish on the face of American society because our nation is supposed to be a place of equality and opportunity, but we cannot seem to get past some major discrimination in pay between genders in the workplace.

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San Diego has been working toward making city living less expensive for those that cannot afford it. Their aim is to create affordable housing around San Diego so that people can commute to work easier, and live in a more central, accessible location.

The Redevelopment Agency and San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) created the Comprehensive Affordable Housing Strategy Collaborative (CAHSC). The CAHSC is known as the Collaborative. The priority of the Collaborative is to increase affordable housing while simultaneously providing housing development for other housing developments including senior homes and homes for the mentally ill.

The resources that the Collaborative will be using to maintain their initiative come from tax increment funds—a public financing method used to subsidize community-improvement projects—that are set aside for low and moderate housing income by the City Redevelopment Division, and other San Diego development divisions.

The SDHC also provides low-interest loans to help developers acquire, rehabilitate and build long-term affordable housing. To qualify for this program, potential customers must meet certain guidelines.

Freshman Alex Weis offers a diverse opinion on this subject.

"I think the desire to help people find housing is a good one, particularly as a college student wondering where I will live in years to come," Weis said. "But, changing the housing market can be tricky. That is why I am concerned with the 'how'. If it forces prices down,

then it may ultimately cause a shortage of housing or lower the quality of it. If it subsidizes buyers, who receives the subsidy and where is it coming from? I think that initiatives like this have long-lasting effects, and it will particularly affect neighborhoods because prices are being artificially pushed down."

Buyers that earn no more than 100 percent of the San Diego area median income—which is how much the family makes compared to the rest of the San Diego residences, taking into account family size—may qualify for a deferred-payment, a second trust deed loan of up to 17 percent of the purchase price, and an interest rate set at 3 percent with no payment required for 30 years. The payment on the loan is not required until the home is sold or no longer occupied.

Buyers earning no more than 80 percent of the San Diego area median income are eligible for up to \$15,000 or 4 percent of the purchase price, whichever is less and buyers earning 100 percent are eligible for \$10,000 or 4 percent, whichever is lowest. The grants awarded to these buyers must be repaid if the home is sold, refinanced, or no longer owner-occupied.

Qualified homebuyers with income not exceeding 140 percent of the San Diego area median income may claim a federal income tax credit. Buyers earning 80 percent or less, or buying in a specified neighborhood, may claim a tax credit of 20 percent of the annual interest paid on their mortgage; all other buyers receive 15 percent. This reduced tax burden helps the buyers qualify for mortgages because it boosts their net earnings. However, the buyers must repay the tax if they sell their home within the first nine years.

Along with the affordable housing initiative, the SDHC has created the Home Safe Home program,



Photo courtesy of Photot Dean/flickr.com

The city of San Diego is creating affordable housing initiatives.

which offers services to low and middle-class homeowners to make their homes a safe place.

Low-income homeowners and landlords with low-income units within the city of San Diego are eligible for assistance. The program offers zero interest, deferred payment loans up to \$15,000 for single-unit properties, and mobile home repair grants up to \$5,500 for health and safety repairs. None of the loans require payments until the property is sold or new loans are made. This program also targets eight specific former redevelopment areas with deferred payment loans of up to \$10,000 at a three percent interest that is forgivable for 10 years.

The largest program that the SDHC has created is the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV). This program currently helps 14,626 households in paying rent that they cannot afford. The voucher recipients pay between 30 and 40 percent of their adjusted monthly gross income rent, this determines how much of

the person's income is taxable.

The SDHC gives preference to applicants who are families of two or more people that have a dependent, individuals age 62 or older, veterans, active US military service members, or homeless persons.

So far, the HCV has created more than 13,000 affordable homes through low-interest loans and other incentives and provides assistance to about 12,000 very low-income households every year. The HCV has developed 2,700 affordable homes downtown and the tax increment funds have been used to build 250 additional housing units outside the downtown area.

Along with building homes and providing aid and incentives, the HCV has also repaired more than 11,000 homes, helped more than 3,400 low-to-moderate-income families and individuals, and are responsible for the creation of more than 400 single-family homes in the southeastern community.

Laguna Pharmaceuticals moves to La Jolla

RACHEL TRUONG
CONTRIBUTOR

Laguna Pharmaceuticals announced that they will hire a new CEO and move to La Jolla, Calif. from its original location in Cleveland, Ohio.

The biotech company intends to use the move to San Diego and the \$30 million it acquired through funding to help further its research on its first drug, Vanoxerine. Used to treat irregular heartbeat, it is possible that the drug will replace electric defibrillation.

Russ Adwan, a senior studying to go to medical school, believes that there are many reasons why Laguna Pharmaceuticals moved to San Diego.

"If you want to test a cardiac pill, the first thing you'll need is a population with either a high risk or high rate of cardiac issues," Adwan said, "That's your retirement community, mainly, and we have a large population of them here in San Diego. And then you're going to need some medical institutions to help you with your research. That's where places like Sharp, Kaiser Permanente, and UCSD School of Medicine. All in all, it was a pretty smart move to come down here."

In addition to the high concentration of retirees and the presence of several large

medical institutions, San Diego is also home to many biotech companies. These companies, such as Simply Biotech and VLP Biotech, will be able to assist Laguna Pharmaceuticals in its research on Vanoxerine, as well as partner up on other endeavors, such as new types of drugs.

Vanoxerine is intended to treat atrial fibrillation, which is the leading form of irregular heartbeat that causes poor blood flow in patients. This can lead to clotting, cardiac arrest, and death.

The usual treatment for irregular heartbeat is an amiodarone or the use of a defibrillator or pacemaker, which may be implanted in patients in severe cases. However, unlike amiodarone, vanoxerine does not appear to cause any harmful side effects, placing it a step above its contender.

According to the American Stroke Association and the American Heart Association, atrial fibrillation affects at least 1 in 100 people in their fifties and at least 1 in 10 people in their 80s.

In terms of USD's population of 5,665 students, those statistics will mean at least 566 students will develop atrial fibrillation by the time they reach their 80s.

The significant advantage that a drug has over an implanted device will mean students may be able to avoid an operating room, therefore cutting health



Photo courtesy of e-Magine Art/flickr.com

Laguna Pharmaceuticals moves to La Jolla for research on new drug.

expenses and allowing for more opportunities to complete a bucket list unhindered by an implant.

USD is also home to a prominent nursing school, full of students who will one day deal with many patients who are either in need of having an implantation or who already have one that requires maintenance. Theresa Wong is a student visitor at the school, who agrees that a pill would be much more convenient than an implant.

"My mom actually needs an implant at the moment," says Wong, a first year nursing student, "She has to get it changed every five years and can't do a good

amount of basic things like using the microwave because she's afraid that it's going to break. Having a pill would definitely take the fear out of her daily life and help her function at least somewhat normally again."

Vanoxerine has performed successfully in cell cultures and canine test subjects and is currently being clinically tested on patients.

According to test results, 400 milligrams of the drug seems capable of producing the same results as an electrical defibrillator.

Further testing is needed before the drug may be able to enter the market and help patients with atrial fibrillation.

Ask the Alumni: Kyle Miholich talks about Fiji Yogurt

BRIANNA HARRINGTON
BUSINESS EDITOR
@BNH1995

Owner of Fiji Yogurt, Kyle Miholich, offers his experience on creating a business.

Miholich was 22 when he started his business and was a senior at the University of San Diego when he started drawing up the plans.

"I started mapping out my ideas senior year," Miholich said. "I was taking an entrepreneur class and we had a project where we had to design a business plan. I realized that frozen yogurt places did really well and there weren't any really close by."

Besides building his business plans at USD, Miholich also made many life-long relationships and met his future wife.

Miholich was born and raised in San Diego and moving away from the city was not an option for him.

Miholich's experience at USD helped prepare him for real world business, but he stresses that the actual experience of being in business is invaluable.

"Some of the classes were helpful, but mainly it was experiencing first hand and learning on the go, being able to adapt to changes, realizing that not everything goes perfectly and not everything goes your way, and learning to learn to accept that," Miholich said.

Miholich's path was solidified after he attended graduate school for three weeks.

As a senior, he had no idea what he wanted to do beyond USD, he played with the idea of being a lawyer for a little bit, but decided that running his own business suited him better.

"Opening the business was a great experience," Miholich said. "It was really fun, but it was a whole lot of work and a whole lot of hours. I also learned a lot."

Starting Fiji Yogurt came with a lot of fears and headaches. Like anyone starting a business, Miholich worried that it would not catch on, it would not work, or it would not profit.

"Everyone has that fear," Miholich said. "You just have to push through and work a little bit harder."

When he started up his business he was working day-to-day operations in the Fiji Yogurt shop on Linda Vista, and he was putting in a lot of hours.

However, opening up new stores created some unforeseen problems.

Once he started opening other locations he had to develop an operation system due to the fact that he could not be in all of the different store locations at one time.

Another problem that came with opening new stores was franchising. Around 2009 and 2010, Miholich decided that he wanted to try to franchise his brand.

It cost a lot of money to try to put together and a lot of

preparation. Franchising is one thing that Miholich wishes he could have done differently.

"I would have opened one less store because when it came to franchise we didn't have the time or capital to market ourselves and compete with other brands," Miholich said. "If I could change it I would have opened one less store and hired a marketing director or someone that was knowledgeable in that field. If I had done that we probably could have pulled it off, but after a couple of years of trying ourselves, we had to pull the plug."

Starting a business is never easy, but Miholich offers some advice to help along the way. Miholich believes that

the best way to learn is through real world experience and your failures.

"The things you learn from classes, school and textbooks don't match what you learn in the real-world," Miholich said. "People get obsessed with GPA and how they do in classes, but in the end none of that matters."

The best way to get real-world experiences, in Miholich's opinion, is through internships, mentors, and part-time jobs that you really enjoy.

"Try something on your own or partner with other smaller businesses in an industry you can see yourself working in," Miholich said. "Start small. Fail early and fail cheap."



Photo Courtesy of Shade of Melon/flickr.com

Kyle Miholich offers advice for people starting businesses.

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(business@usdvista.com)

Business Spotlight

BRIANNA HARRINGTON
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Looking for a change from your routine Starbucks or Aroma's coffee?

Café Bassam offers a moody, unique, and vintage atmosphere to enjoy your coffee in.

The shop is most popular for its variety of drinks that are made in old-fashioned brewing machines.

The drinks they offer include: Mexican mocha, strawberry cappuccino, ameri, and double shot espresso. Their most famous drink is their chai tea lattes.

There is also a wine room for their customers that are 21 and over.

Along with delicious drinks, the café offers a selection of food for their customers with prices ranging from \$2 to \$10.

Their food choices include: baklava, paninis, sandwiches, soups, and olive and cheese plates.

This is great for students because it is decently priced for those on a budget. Instead of paying through the roof for bland coffee, you can enjoy a unique, hand-brewed drink.

The coffee shop also features a piano and frequently has live music. It commonly has European jazz music playing in the background when no live music is available.

Probably the best perk for college students is that it is open from 8 a.m. to 12 a.m. Sunday through Thursday and it is open until 1 a.m. on Friday and Saturday.

Café Bassam takes reservations and also has free wi-fi available for its customers.



Photo Courtesy of Scott Beale/flickr.com

Bassam offers a vintage atmosphere.

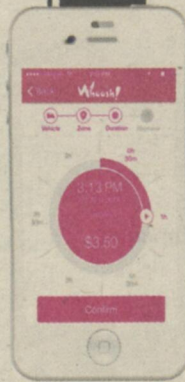
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THE VISTA

Reading is still cool, I promise



JULIANA CURTIS
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As our generation delves deeper and deeper in its technology obsession, it is clear that our gadgets and gizmos have replaced many wonderful aspects of life. Whether that be actually speaking to people face to face, enjoying life's moments without a camera in front of our faces to record every second, or simply looking up and smiling at strangers as we walk around without our heads buried in our phones.

There are many instances where I see our dependence on technology doing more harm than good. However, there is one part of life that I cherished more than anything else growing up, that I'm starting to realize is a dying trend. This, more than anything else, has me the most disturbed. Does no one read books anymore?

This may be the nerd in me talking, but I'm pretty sure everyone loved reading at one point in his or her life. It was not like we were all reading classic novels, but most of my classmates in grade school enjoyed a good adventure book, or at least "Gossip Girl" for the ladies. Reading was something I always looked forward to; a time when I could escape for a little while and be entertained completely by a good story. I still feel like nothing compares to a good book when it comes to entertainment, despite all of the television, social media, and online streaming services we have available today.

So when did reading stop being cool? It is in my experience talking to friends and my siblings that no one knows that people still read books regularly. Unless, of course, they read the "50 Shades of Grey" series, but I will not even get into that. A plethora of movies have been released lately that are based off of books, so one would assume that this means more people are reading these books. However, whenever I head out with friends to see these films based on novels, such as "Divergent", "The Maze Runner", "Gone Girl", etc, I am the only one among the crowd that has actually read the book.

The only possible explanation I can think of as to why avid readers have become an endangered species is just the lack of time in a college student's life. Between classes, work, extracurriculars, and social life, not much time is left for recreational reading. It seems that even the most preoccupied students still make time for other forms of media consumption, so it is likely that novels have dropped on the priority list.

I encourage students, who are at the most important time in their lives regarding brain and personality development, to strive to fit literature into their days just a little bit more. Constantly bombarded by the visuals of the media, sometimes it is nice to get to create our own images in our heads when seeking entertainment. Not only will it be a nice break from other media, but you will likely boost your intelligence as well, something we could all use as we head into the first round of midterms.

Make your Lenten sacrifice matter

Lent has become less sacrificial and more selfish for many USD students

DANI DEVRIES
CONTRIBUTOR

At the beginning of the Lenten season, the question on everyone's mind is what people are choosing to give up for Lent. As the University of San Diego is a Catholic University, there are many people that choose to honor the season of Lent and have given things up in preparation for Easter Sunday.

Although the practice of giving something up for Lent is traditionally viewed as a way to honor Jesus' sacrifice, Lenten sacrifices have lost their symbolic meaning. For more and more people, giving something up is becoming a revamped New Year's resolution, rather than an actual offering to God.

While there are some people that take their Lenten promises very seriously, others are using lent as a way to improve their health, break bad habits, or better themselves in some way.

Sophomore Bethany Mok, a member of University Ministry, takes her Lenten promises very seriously, as she truly uses them as a way to honor God.

"Lent to me is a season to recognize how much God truly loves us through sending His son down to die on a cross for our sins," Mok said. "For me, giving things up, or fasting, is a way to intentionally grow closer to God."

Mok believes that Lenten promises can make individuals

more intentional about how they are living. Mok decided to give up wearing makeup this year.

"I did this because I find myself insecure without it, but in all reality, God created me to be His beautiful child, and I find myself not believing or trusting Him in that quite often," Mok said.

"It's challenging me to be confident in who God created me to be, and to let my authenticity attract others rather than the way I portray myself through clothing and make up."

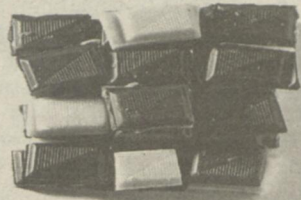
However for many, this type of deep reflection does not necessarily correspond with their decisions to give something up.

Senior Ryan Splinter notes that some participate in Lenten sacrifices more so because it's a trend among their friends than because they feel connected to God.

"I personally do not always give something up because I believe that it is more constructive to instead do something new to improve oneself," Splinter said. "I come from a Catholic family and there is definitely a mix between people who give something up just because everyone else is. It's a personal decision that needs to be made by the individual."

Especially attending a Catholic University, there can be a lot of pressure on individuals to participate in the practice of giving things up. However it is important to remember the

LENT
is for
LIFE



not just
for
chocolate.

Photo Courtesy of Christian Gathier/Flickr remembrance."

meaning behind it when choosing to participate.

For example, many would categorize giving up sweets as a Lenten sacrifice, but when viewed from an objective standpoint, it is really about having a major sweet tooth and deciding to eat less sugar.

While I completely understand the meaning of Lenten promises, when reflecting on promises like this, they don't quite qualify. While it's great to give something up that challenges one to improve themselves, the key aspect is whether or not that individual's promise benefits themselves more than God, thus negating the meaning behind the sacrifice.

Freshman Kate Newton demonstrates how, even when giving up something small, it can still be done in the true spirit of Lent.

"To me, Lent is about giving up something a luxury or something you enjoy in order to grow deeper in your faith and commitment to God," Newton said. It is a time of reflection and

"Because Jesus gave up his life for us, it is important to give up something you enjoy. More importantly, Lent is about taking something on, starting a new habit or tradition. This year, I am also choosing to volunteer more and attending Sunday Mass."

This distinction in purpose is what separates a Lenten promise from an everyday, run of the mill, attempt to break a bad habit or better one's self. And while those are both great things to do, it is the spirit behind Lenten promises that distinguish them.

It is important to consider, if you chose to make a Lenten sacrifice, whether it is truly in preparation for Easter Sunday, or if it is just something you should incorporate into your everyday life.

Either way, doing something to better yourself, or the community, is a great effort and something to be celebrated.

But for those trying to honor God, some reflection may be needed to evaluate your true intentions.

Trials and tribulations of a USD brat

The recent construction on Tu Merc and the relocation of the entrance has left students quite confused and distressed

LAUREN M.C.
CONTRIBUTOR

I work at the Student Involvement and Information Desk (SIID) – formerly adjacent to the old Tu Mercado entrance, commonly referred to as the "Tu Merc desk." This gives me the perfect opportunity to people watch, eavesdrop, and revel in the endless glory of the USD brat.

Now when I say "brat," I mean it in the most endearing way. Because we've all done it; we've all spoken way too loud about things that don't really make sense regarding topical USD interests like Jamaica block parties, Sara's, and the perpetually burnt taste of campus coffee.

This week's audible treasures have consisted primarily of opinionated commentary regarding our newly constructed Tu Mercado entrance.

Lesson learned: people literally don't like change. The good news for everyone involved is that the "awkward" wall will soon home a mural, the ever-in-construction Torero Store will add fluidity to Tu Mercado's new entrance, and our USD brats will live happily ever after.

"There's literally NO point to that."

"They JUST put that wall there? Wow."

"It's so weird that they changed it. I don't like it."

"Yeah like WHAT, a wall?"

"What is this? I feel like they need to step up their game."

"They literally moved the door from there to there. I don't know why."

"It's like 'Hey, let's go to Tu Merc! Oh wait, it's around the corner.'"

"They need to at least paint a mural or something on that wall. It's just a big awkward space."

"Hey we were just talking about how much we hate the new entrance."

"I think they should've kept both entrances... (turns to me) what do you think?"

Me: "I personally like the awkward wall."

"That wall is totally throwing me off"

"So did Tu Merc, like, disappear forever?"

"And Tu Merc... it's so awkward."

"I liked that entrance better."

"They could've AT LEAST put a window there."
—"Yeah, AT LEAST."

Panhellenic requires inoffensive themes

Fraternities and sororities asked to avoid hurtful stereotypes for social event themes

DANIELLE DEVRIES
CONTRIBUTOR

As a society, we are constantly trying to move toward equality and away from discrimination. The University of San Diego campus is no exception. Every event held on campus or sponsored by the university strives to be inoffensive and inclusive toward everyone. It seems like the desire to keep everything politically correct is being broadened to envelop even the most simple of things.

Recently, Panhellenic Council, the organization in charge of overseeing sorority rules and regulations has been reevaluating social and dance themes that they consider to be offensive. The aim is to decline themes that may result in people wearing costumes that can be seen as stereotypical or offensive towards a specific culture or group of people. However, for most students, these costumes are worn in good fun, and are meant to relate to a broader theme, not to target or mock groups of people.

In an effort to stay away from themes that might result in a culture or group of people being stereotyped, themes such as toga or tropics would fall under the umbrella of themes that are no

longer acceptable. Despite the fact that most people do not view togas or hula skirts as offensive towards a particular culture, complaints in the past have led to further consideration over whether or not these themes are still appropriate.

Additionally, themes that incorporate words in their title that are considered derogatory in some way are also being denied. Recently the theme of "Eighties chicks" was dismissed for having the word "chicks" in it, as it was deemed to be offensive to women. Despite it being women who submitted the theme for approval, and who were thus obviously not offended by it, Greek life is considering all possible ramifications before approving themes.

Sophomore Lexxi Sullivan, Panhellenic public relations representative, clarified the council's policy for approving themes, and why they are being taken more seriously as of late.

"As far as dance theme approval goes, we aim to ensure that all of our activities are treating and representing everyone in and beyond our community with dignity and respect," Sullivan said. "In the past this has not been considered in conjunction with dance themes, which is why

dance themes have been more frequently rejected. Some theme ideas that are rejected don't make it through because they may stereotype, disrespect, or put down one or more groups of people."

While sometimes it seems a bit extreme to take such trivial matters as social themes for Greek life so seriously, Panhellenic is well intentioned in their quest to limit offensive themes. Obviously the campus does not foster stereotypes in any way, and does not want to make anyone feel uncomfortable, but simply limiting dance themes for Greek life is not going to solve the problem of people perpetuating stereotypes and being ignorant to other cultures, races, genders, etc.

Junior Marlin Stovesand remarks that themes are such a miniscule thing to take issue with when looking at the big picture.

"I don't see what the problem is," Stovesand said. "Most themes are totally fine, as long as people use proper discretion when choosing how to dress or decorate. The bigger issue is people being ignorant or reading too much into things, not the themes themselves."

The proper way to prevent these stereotypes from spreading is by educating the community,

not by simply denying social themes and expecting people to understand how, for instance, a tropical theme could be considered offensive toward island cultures. It is not the tropical theme that is the issue, but rather people taking things too far and turning a perfectly innocent theme into something offensive and unacceptable.

Sophomore Savannah Jenson believes it is people's lack of respect within a theme rather than the theme itself that is causing a problem.

"I think all themes can be offensive when people take them to an annoying level," Jenson said. "Sometimes people take things too seriously, other times not seriously enough."

For the most part, people do not take costumes to a point where they are offensive, yet if one person overdoes it and someone feels disrespected it turns something as harmless as a social into a negative experience for everyone involved.

Senior Anna Gaoghagan thinks it is up to the people involved to keep events positive and inoffensive.

"I understand the implications of having themes that can be considered insensitive, especially since

USD prides itself on inclusion," Gaoghagan said. "However we've had themes in the past, like one called spotlight, where members wore different colors to represent their relationship status, that could have made some people uncomfortable, but didn't because people didn't take it too seriously."

"The purpose of these themes is never to cause any harm, and sometimes denying a theme causes more hype that sheds a detrimental and negative light on Greek life."

The most important thing is for people to be conscientious and try and be respectful at all times. Most things can be considered offensive if people are willing to take them there, but it is our responsibility as community to make a conscious effort to be inclusive and considerate.

Conversely, people need to understand that these themes are meant in good fun, and are not aiming to be offensive towards anyone. It is this mutual effort towards understanding and respect that will prevent Panhellenic from having to step in and regulate themes more closely. Socials, and their themes, should be enjoyable for everyone, and with a little consideration they can be.

Letters to the Editor Policy

The Vista strongly encourages letters to the editor from students, faculty, staff, administration and the community.

Correspondence should be sent to managing@usdvista.com with the subject line "Letter to the Editor."

Submissions should be limited to 500 words and must include verifiable contact information. Letter content is subject to editing for clarity and style.

The Vista does not publish anonymous letters, those addressed to a third party or letters in poor taste.



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Pamela Iuppa: Personal Trainer



Parker Lennon: Personal Trainer



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Swim - Brooklyn Dippo
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SPRING INTO SHAPE



Yoga - Caitlin Carney

Yoga is a great way to relax and increase flexibility. It helps you get in better touch with your body and is also a great workout. Yoga has so much more to offer than flexibility and getting into shape. Everyone and anyone, no matter their ability can do yoga and adapt it to suit their individual tastes and needs.

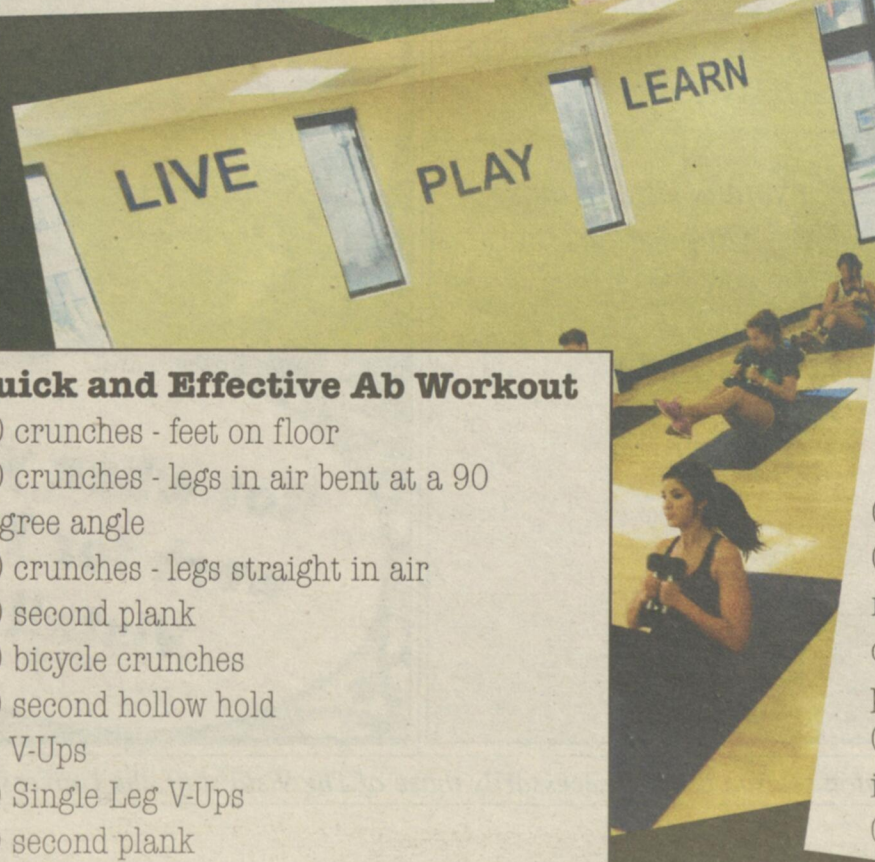
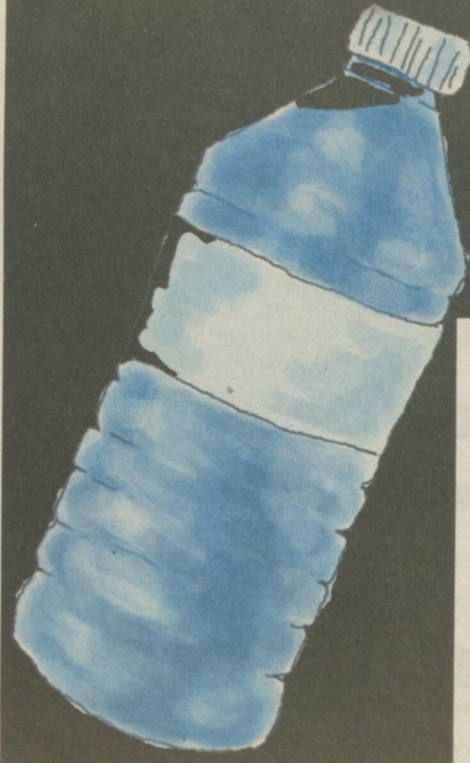


Crossfit - Anna Chappell

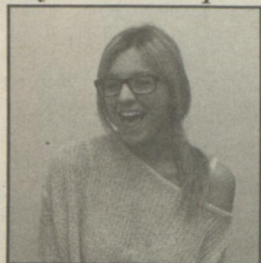
Crossfit is a combination of functional body movements, performed at high intensity. You are always challenging your body to do new things and you never plateau. If you're looking for a constant challenge, Crossfit is a great option. It is fun and social, Crossfit is usually done with a group or class lead by a coach. Crossfit never gets easier, you just get better.

Quick and Effective Ab Workout

- 20 crunches - feet on floor
- 20 crunches - legs in air bent at a 90 degree angle
- 20 crunches - legs straight in air
- 30 second plank
- 30 bicycle crunches
- 30 second hollow hold
- 10 V-Ups
- 20 Single Leg V-Ups
- 30 second plank



Long-distance friendship



KAITLIN GOODHART
FEATURE EDITOR
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There comes a time in everyone's life when they meet that special someone. This special someone could come along at any point in one's life, but when you know, you know. Some call it fate, but one thing everyone can agree on is this person is their best friend.

Throughout your life you may go through multiple best friends, but when you meet your person, there is no getting rid of them. This is the person you can call at any time of the day to rant about the girl wearing the same shirt as you. The two of you share a special bond that no one else understands. A best friend is the sister or brother you never asked for.

Lucky for me, I met my best friend the day she was born. It was not until high school that I realized I had met my person. My sister Kristen is my best friend and my person. Having your best friend down the street or in the room next to you, seems to make life a lot easier. She is the Christina to my Meredith. But now that we are both in college, it is hard to plan a weekend we can both go home to see each other. Growing up we would not go more than 12 hours without seeing each other, now we're living in different states. Needless to say, long-distance friendship sucks.

It is inevitable that at some point in your life you and your best friend will be temporarily separated, but nothing can prepare you for it. The struggles of long-distance friendship go hand-in-hand with the struggles of long-distance relationships. Both are extremely unfortunate and frustrating situations that leave you in a constant post-visit depression after returning back to your everyday life after seeing them.

For anyone who is involved in a long-distance friendship, you understand the small heartache that comes when they post pictures with their new friends, sorority 'sisters' or college BFFM (best friend for the moment). There is nothing easy about long-distance friendships, or relationships. But there is an everlasting feeling of the eternal thankfulness you have because they were put into your life.

When you do get to turn your long-distance friendship into a weekend visit, the time always seems to go by too fast but is full of excitement. Then it's back to trying to fill in the gap with text messages and phone calls.

So for all of you who are lucky enough to have your best friend a short distance away, don't take it for granted. As for my own long-distance friendship, I'll keep taking advantage of technology and counting down the days until we are reunited.

Insight: your own personal to-do list

University of San Diego is launching a new app to help organize student schedules

KAITLIN GOODHART
FEATURE EDITOR
BROOKLYN DIPPO
ASST. FEATURE EDITOR
and
ELISABETH SMITH
CONTRIBUTOR

Staying organized in college can become stressful at times when it comes to staying on top of and managing all of your tasks. With classes, jobs, and involvement on campus, University of San Diego students seem to always be on the go and busy. To help students with this problem, the USD Mobile Team has created a new app called Insight, that will presumably help students manage their lives.

Insight is a task management and scheduler app that is designed to help organize USD students' assignments, grades, class schedule, and extra activities on campus. The app is directly linked to the MySanDiego Portal, allowing access to student class schedules and Blackboard. All of the information you were able to find on Blackboard is now accessible in the app, making it easy for students to plan around their class schedules.

A major difference in the MySDMobile is that it was designed to help students keep track of their class schedule and get in contact with their professors and peers. The app also gives students access to an interactive GPS map of USD.

Although the new Insight app is a custom built to-do list, the app does not replace the MySDMobile app, released in August 2009. Insight does not allow students to look at their class rosters to see who is in their class or check the tram schedules like MySDMobile does.

However, this new app is seen to complement MySDMobile by allowing students to add in other activities and events to their schedule, rather than just having access to their set class dates and times. Insight is every student's personalized to-do list with everything in one place.

The app is currently in beta mode and is being tested by USD students that are a part of the Beta Test Program, that any student can sign up for. Sophomore Daniel Sykora, a beta tester for Insight and finds the interface very easy to work with.

"It works as a well-developed app," Sykora said. "Everyone wants a good way to organize, and this integrates everything you need from your portal into one app."

"I used to never use a planner," Sykora said. "But now Insight allows me to have good time management. It's the most efficient way for me to schedule my time. It does certain things that MySDMobile can't do like planning out homework."

Insight engineers have high hopes for this app's future. Although the beta mode app does

INSIGHT

Insight is the perfect tool to record and manage your tasks. Use categories you create or use ones generated from your class schedule. Set a reminder before a task is due and never forget a task again.

Available on the App Store

ATTEND THE LAUNCH EVENT FOR EARLY ACCESS

PRE-REGISTER FOR LAUNCH EVENT

Photo Courtesy of Insight

University of San Diego Insight app will be available in the App Store this spring.

not have club or organization schedules included, there is the option for this feature to be added in if the app takes off.

"I could see them adding clubs and organizations to the app," Sykora said. "If popularity will pick up they'll want to work to get others involved. It all depends on marketing. And if this is anything like the MySDMobile, everyone on campus will be using it soon."

One of the highlight features Insight offers is the ability to plan out students' homework and assignments. Insight allows professors to upload their daily, weekly, or semester long homework assignments. Notifications can be set up in the app to remind a student to add in their homework right after class.

What separates Insight from any other to-do list in the App Store, is its ability to synchronize your school

schedule, homework assignments, and outside of class activities. Insight is unique and only available to the USD community.

Our generation is the founder of social media, constantly engaged with our phones. To have a to-do list in the palm of your hand that is customized to your own schedule, will help students gain a balance in the stressful college environment.

Sophomore Kellie Cable is always penciling in reminders in her planner to help keep an organized schedule.

"I am a firm believer in having a planner to keep all of my assignments and schedules organized," Cable said. "But sometimes a professor will shout out the homework for the night after you have packed up and you forget to write it down in your next class. I think Insight can help with that problem and keep me just as organized as my planner."

Students who are not a part of the beta test program have also heard about Insight around campus. Senior Taylor Kam is intrigued by organization features the app has to offer.

"Insight would definitely help me to stay organized with classes, work, set reminders, meetings, and other activities especially with my involvement at school," Kam said. "The app would essentially make everything easier it it's all in one place rather than writing things down or reaching out to different sources to get everything I need to get done."

Insight's launch event will be held on Tuesday March 3, from 3-5 p.m. in O'Toole's, allowing early access to students who attend. Registration for the event is free and beverages and appetizers will be served. The first 100 attendees will receive a limited edition Insight gift.

Calling all acroyogis to USD

Acroyoga has come to USD this Spring and is seeking all acro-yogis on campus

BROOKLYN DIPPO
ASST. FEATURE EDITOR
@brooklyndippo

A University of San Diego undergraduate and graduate student are working together in hopes of bringing a new club to campus that combines fitness, relaxation, and play. The practice they want to bring to USD is called acroyoga, which is a mixture of acrobatics, yoga, and massage. The intersection of these creates a series of physically and mentally challenging poses. There is no background in gymnastics or circus arts needed, acroyoga is for every body.

Acroyoga is typically done in pairs with a base who supports the duo and a flyer who is elevated by the base. Many people begin the practice by communicating and building trust with their partner before going into any acroyoga poses. For more advanced positions, a spotter helps to ensure the flyer's safety too.

The duo that is bringing acroyoga to USD is Steven Cummings and Savana Blair.

Cummings is a first semester graduate student working on his Masters of Science in Global Leadership through the School of Business Administration. He was trained as a yoga instructor in Dharamsala, India and then discovered acroyoga while volunteering as an English teacher in Bali.

"When I was an undergraduate in Virginia,

I'd never even heard of acroyoga," Cummings said.

He explained that his favorite part is the playfulness of the sport. While traditional yoga is a very individual practice of exploring the limits of your body while building strength and flexibility, acroyoga has unique social benefits.

"During yoga, a practitioner is often tuned inward, channeling a deep sense of internal expression onto the mat," Cummings said. "Acroyoga has a much more playful atmosphere, people are laughing and trying to grasp new concepts together through a partnership of two or more people."

Savana Blair is the flyer of the pair and a double major in Electrical Engineering and Biophysics in her fourth of five years at USD. She was introduced to acroyoga two years ago by a friend and began regularly practicing a year and a half ago.

Like Cummings, Blair enjoys the teamwork in acroyoga that isn't found in any other form of yoga.

"I really enjoy the collaborative aspect of acroyoga," Blair said. "You get to build strength, flexibility, and trust with others while growing your acroyoga practice."

Blair noted some of the physical and mental benefits of acroyoga too.

"It helps to increase flexibility, strength, body mindfulness, and concentration while decreasing stress," Blair said.

All of these benefits have made the practice extremely popular in Southern California. San Diego has one of the largest acroyoga communities in the country. Though there are lots of acroyoga classes in San Diego, more popular are acroyoga jams. A jam is a meetup of acroyogis typically outdoors in a grassy area.

"San Diego has one of the most ample acroyoga communities," Blair said. "There are weekly classes and jams that anyone can attend."

Every Wednesday there is a jam on the Newport Street greens in Ocean Beach and every Saturday there is one at Ariel Revolution, just a down the hill from USD. Students won't even have to go that far because Blair and Cummings are also organizing jams on the USD campus.

"Now that it's become such a fun part of my life that I felt a strong calling to help others get a taste of the magic," Cummings said. "At USD we have all this beautiful weather and outdoor green space, plus a phenomenal campus ambience, it's the perfect place for acroyoga to grow and bring mirthful exuberance to the student body."

The first USD acroyoga jam will be Thursday, March 5 during dead hours on the green space outside of Aromas. All students are welcome to attend and should wear appropriate clothes and bring a yoga mat. There will be experienced acroyogis to help teach and play with everyone including beginners.



Brooklyn Dippo/ The Vista
Steve Cummings and Savana Blair practicing their acroyoga on campus.



Brooklyn Dippo/ The Vista
Steve Cummings and Savana Blair practicing their acroyoga on campus.

App of the week: Nike Training Club

KAITLIN GOODHART
FEATURE EDITOR
@itsskg

The Nike Training Club app is a fitness app that allows users to select workouts that best suit them and it's free.

The visual workouts come with step-by-step instructions and videos for every work out and movement.

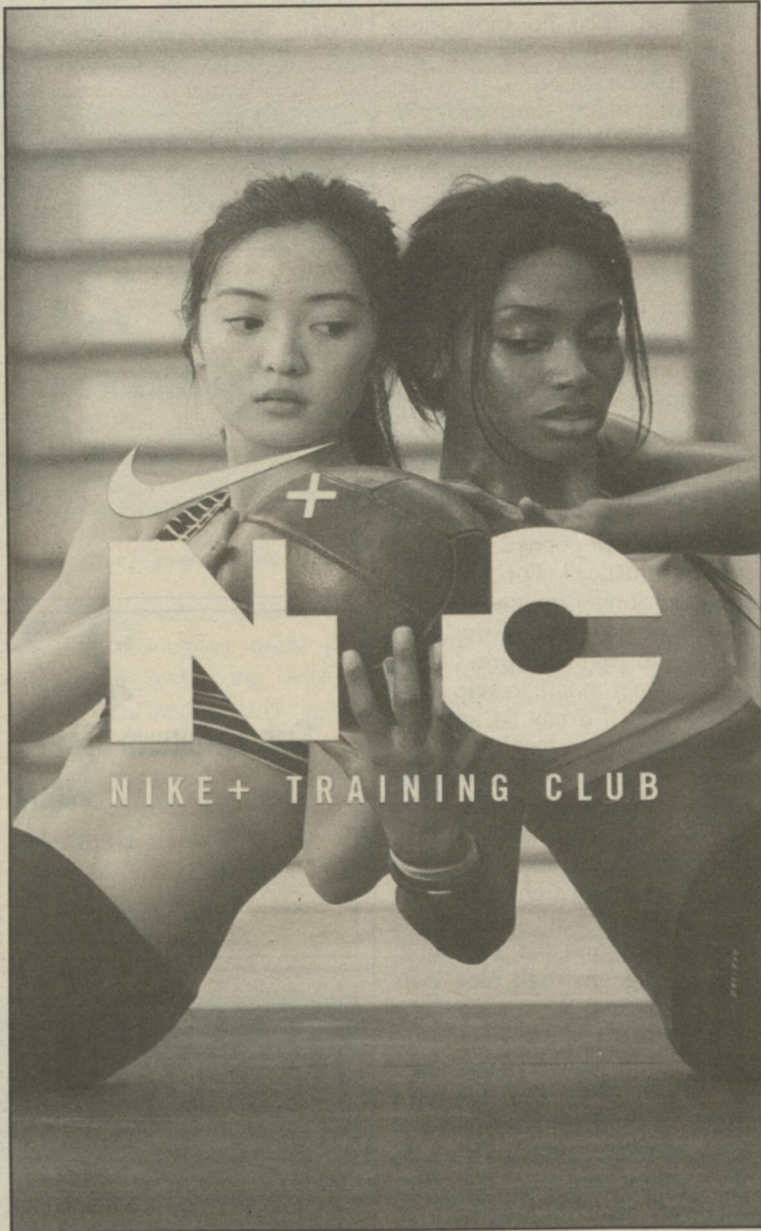
From 60 minute cardio workouts to 10 minute ab workouts, Nike Training Club lets you work out at the gym or at home and keeps track of your progress.

Users can tailor their fitness goals to their height and weight. The app offers workouts focusing on getting lean, toned, strong, and focused on specific muscles.

It is like having your own personal trainer right on your phone. The trainer encourages you throughout the entire workout.

Nike Training Club syncs with the Nike Fuel Band to keep track of your progress and allows users to create a four-week program to help accomplish their goal.

Whether you are looking for a quick 10 minute ab work out, or a butt buster toning work out, Nike Training Club has it all.



THE VISTA

It ads nothing



KEVIN KARN

ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR
@kkarn7

My favorite website on the planet has always been YouTube. With practically an infinite library of videos, it is a one-stop shop for all the entertainment and education I need. As far as the Internet goes, I would almost say that YouTube is my best friend, except for the fact that it has been quietly stealing from me for years.

It is no secret that embedding advertisements is a key marketing strategy implemented by companies these days. Whether it is through personalized Google ads, Facebook posts tailored to an individual's interests, or sponsored Twitter ads, marketers have infiltrated online user presence. However, most online ads are easy to avoid and do not take much time to scroll over. Their annoyance is limited by our ability to ignore their minor intrusions.

This brings us back to YouTube: the wonderful world of wasting your time. Like your favorite roommate that casually eats all of your groceries, YouTube's strategically placed advertisements before videos add a cool 30 seconds to whatever you are trying to enjoy. This is okay when the video is 20 minutes or even 10 minutes long. But, as I was cruelly reminded a few days ago, it takes on a different form of punishment when there is a 30 second advertisement before a 45 second video. For those math majors out there, the viewing time just increased 67 percent.

Extrapolate that example over multiple videos and you could find yourself spending 150 percent of the time you originally intended due to the excessive advertising. Not to mention I have never met a person who asked to watch the "Taken 3" trailer 17 times in one hour. I might forgive the site if it was more creative with the ads, but they seem to have an ad of the day that they will replay until you despise the featured product.

So how has an avid YouTuber responded to the subtle injustice? For one, the site is no longer my number one source of playing music. That belongs to Spotify. Sure, I have to pay \$4 per month to skip all of the ads, but I'd pay \$4 any day for the four hours I am inevitably saving myself by unchaining myself from YouTube ads.

As for my other primary use, sports highlights, I no longer will search YouTube but instead will Google a highlight to find the Vine link. The average football play lasts seven seconds. Why wait thirty seconds to watch one play when I can watch it twice in a Vine?

My visits to YouTube have shrunk from multiple times per day to now maybe once a week. Do I still waste time? Yes. But at least I am the one doing it.

First look: San Diego spring concert preview

SEAN MURPHY
CONTRIBUTOR

The magnificence of San Diego is rarely lost on its inhabitants, especially in the spring. In the land of endless summer, no night goes by without a show.

For students, the next couple of months will be busy, as an abundance of talented acts come to the city. Also, with the impending music festival season, one can sometimes get so carried away planning how to keep their phone charged at the Coachella campgrounds that they miss what is playing in their very own backyard. With much to do, it is easy to forget the bevy of concerts and live music attractions that tour the area.

San Diego is host to a variety of musical talent year round. That being said, the purpose of the spring concert preview is to give the University of San Diego community a concise look at a jam-packed season, and some of the shows that stand out. Here is brief a look at what is ahead.

Country music draws a sizable crowd in this town. Brad Paisley lands in town June 6, at the Sleep Train Amphitheater for his "Crushin' It World Tour." Having emerged in the 2000s as country's predominant male star, Paisley continues to advance the genre, and record sales, with his 2014 album "Moonshine in the Trunk."

Speaking of endless summer, Lana Del Rey, a pop artist with a sensuous and moody singing style, is bringing her "Endless Summer Tour" to the Sleep Train Amphitheatre on May 16. The spooky sounding



Kevin Nelson/USD Vista

Lana Del Rey will bring her harmonious vocals to the Sleep Train Amphitheatre on May 16.

2014 album "Ultraviolence" brought Del Rey an abundance of popularity, as did her radio hit from that record, "West Coast." Be sure to look at the lawn seating option that can be found on livenation.com: tickets in that area are about \$35, whereas tickets slightly closer to the stage are nearing \$100-150.

The popular San Franciscan balladeers, Train, also comes to Sleep Train Amphitheatre on their "Picasso At the Wheel" 2015 tour on May 23. This event comes a few days after the last final examinations of the spring semester, which means attending could either serve as a way to soothe the soul, or as a prayer, depending on whether they play their hit single, "Calling All Angels" or not.

A night at the Casbah is assuredly not one soon forgotten. The Casbah has been open

since 1989, with a reputation for the best bands on the near nightly billing. Having booked acts like Nirvana and Smashing Pumpkins, it is no wonder that the Casbah has an exciting spring ahead. Right now, tickets are on sale for Benjamin Booker, the young New Orleans based bluesman and guitarist. For only \$15, you can go see what others will pay hundreds to see at Coachella. Tickets can be found at casbahmusic.com

Next on the list of outstanding venues in San Diego is the House of Blues. Kongos, the popular alt-rock outfit, will be on stage there March 9, with supporting act Sir Sly. Fans of acts like the Black Keys or Zac Brown Band should not miss this one.

Fortunately, the House of Blues will be featuring a few more upcoming groovy

attractions. On April 16, the celestial rock-meets-electronica duo, Rataat, will be putting their experimental beats and acid rock on display. Tickets are general admission and priced at \$32.50.

Another exciting show at the House of Blues will be the Winter Blackout Tour that includes The Expendables, Fortunate Youth, and Katastro. The Expendables are a group of Santa Cruz reggae rockers with a wide range of musical styling that goes from dub reggae to punk. This tour has coincided with their latest album release, "Sand in the Sky."

Lastly, there are quite a few small venues around that support the punk, folk, reggae, metal, and hip-hop scenes if ever in need for a cheap fun show. They include: the Belly Up Tavern, Soda Bar, the North Park Theatre, and the Che Café Collective.

This Week's Events in San Diego:

26

VAGINA MONOLOGUES
UCSD
7 P.M.

26

DEAP VALLY
BELLY UP
9 P.M.

27

BLACK LIVES MATTER:
A DIALOGUE WITH
ALICIA GARZA
MAHER HALL SALOMON HALL
12-2 P.M.

27

OLE MUSIC FESTIVAL
THE VALLEY
6:30-10 P.M.

27

THE BROKERS HAPPY
HOUR
BELLY UP
5:30 P.M.

28

AXO AND FIJI: OVER
THE LINE TOURNAMENT
MISSION BEACH
12-2:30 P.M.

1

BO BURNHAM
BALBOA THEATRE
8 P.M.

2

LESLIE MORGAN
STEINER
CAMINO HALL SHILEY THEATER
5-7 P.M.ARTS & CULTURE
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A group of spies deserving of the spotlight

JASON PEUGH
CONTRIBUTOR

On Feb. 13, an action-adventure spy film by the name of "Kingsman: The Secret Service" was released in the United States, and most likely written off by many as another bland and predictable action movie. To make this assumption would be a colossal mistake.

"Kingsman: The Secret Service," follows the coming-of-age of a young urban hoodlum, Gary "Eggsy" Unwin, played fantastically by the up-and-coming Taron Egerton. Eggsy is headhunted by a gentleman benefactor named Harry Hart, codename Galahad (Colin Firth) for "the most dangerous job interview in the world."

While Eggsy and his more privileged competitors compete for a position among the Kingsmen — an international spy agency based out of a tailor's shop on Savile Row — a

tech-savvy billionaire (Samuel L. Jackson) makes preparations to release anarchy on a global scale. With the assistance of the technical wonder, codename-Merlin (Mark Strong), and the leader of the Kingsmen, codename-Arthur (Michael Caine), Eggsy and Galahad (Firth) must employ all of their skills, training, and cunning to save the world from destruction.

Kingsman brings enough wit, charm, humor, and bloody violence to set itself a clear notch above the A-Teams, Ghost Protocols, and Shadow Recruits of the past few years.

Director Matthew Vaughn imposes his bold signature of bloody, stylized violence on his third comic book adaptation in a row, showing that he has truly perfected the art with repetition. "X-Men: First Class" (2011) and "Kick-ass" (2010) were two of his previous adaptations.

For those who have not yet

checked the rating, Kingsman is a true deserver of the R rating. It features over 100 uses of the f-word, a collection of all sorts of other obscenities, nudity, drinking, and excessive violence.

That is not to say that any of this negatively impacts the film; in fact, the foul language is used in ways that convey the intense emotions felt onscreen in a more realistic light, as well as supplying the audience with some relatable humor to offset the action-packed plotline.

The acting performances in the film are incredible; all the characters are perfectly cast and give their effort, as showcased in their individual roles. Despite being surrounded by such notable performers as Colin Firth, Michael Caine, and Samuel L. Jackson, newcomer Taron Egerton steals the show, giving the film enough personality to make any audience member leave happy. Despite this being only his second feature-length

film, Egerton commands the screen with enough skill to outshine all other cast members, supplying the vast majority of the laughs and participating in some incredible action sequences.

Any fan of the action-adventure genre will also be pleased to see Mark Hamill among the cast as Professor Arnold: a small, but significant character whose main purpose is to introduce the villain.

It is good to see Luke Skywalker outside of his recent voiceover work, piquing all of our interest in anticipation for "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" later this year.

Despite having incredible action sequences and a thrill ride of a plot structure, Kingsman is equally impressive from a comedic perspective.

From the irony of the villain's squeamishness at the sight of blood to the protagonist's hilarious fish-out-of-water antics and the impressive amount of

film trivia portrayed onscreen, the funny elements broaden the film's appeal. Even for those uninterested in the stylized violence and plots of espionage, the film delivers enough charisma and charm to make it thoroughly enjoyable and will keep the audience smirking the entire 129 minutes.

"Kingsman: The Secret Service" is the ultimate spy movie, keeping the intensity and action of the Bond and Bourne movies but making them more relatable to the general public, with plenty of humor and charm.

Any movie where the two main characters can be fighting for their lives against dozens of trained killers then debate conversationally over whether their relationship is more like the couple in "My Fair Lady" or "Pretty Woman" is something worth seeing. 10 out of 10, I recommend this film to anyone and everyone who is looking for a great film to watch.

Taking Back Sunday comes to House of Blues

KEVIN KARN
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR
@kkarn7

Tonight, Feb. 26, Taking Back Sunday will take the stage at the House of Blues downtown as one of the most celebrated alternative rock bands of the previous decade. Their electric stage presence and ability to adapt to the changing music culture have allowed them to remain relevant and continue to put out remarkable albums, with their most recent one titled "Happiness Is" released last year. Having been categorized in a multitude of genres from emo punk to alt rock to pop punk, fans from all over continue to flock to their shows to watch lead singer Adam Lazzara spin the microphone around his body and twirl it around in the air, a signature move that dates back to the music video for "MakeDamnSure."

Guitarist and backup vocalist John Nolan explains how the members' onstage energy is a direct response to the effervescence of the crowds that the band performs for every night.

"The connection that we have with the fans during the set is a big part of it," Nolan said. "It makes for a really amazing experience. We can really feel the audience response and the movement of the crowd."

That connection definitely goes both ways too. While the band feeds off of the enthusiasm of the screaming fans, the individuals in the crowd are responding to their uncanny ability for to captivate audiences. Whether it is the unbelievable range of vocals that Lazzara provides or the heart-pounding guitar riffs from Nolan, students



Photo Courtesy of Ryan Russell

Taking Back Sunday looks to continue their onstage success Feb. 26 at the House of Blues in downtown San Diego.

attending tonight's show are in for a ride. Nolan also mentions how the production of the show has kicked up to another level for this tour.

"The production of the show and the light show have changed a lot," Nolan said. "The lighting director has really been in sync with us."

In an era where lighting has taken on a much larger role in live shows, Nolan and the other band members understand that it is not enough just to put the band under a few spotlights and try to bring down the house. Their openness and ability to evolve has been on display ever since releasing their first full album, "Tell All Your Friends,"

back in 2002. This includes the basic concept of putting out new music before embarking on another tour. Their clever release of "Happiness Is: The Complete Recordings" this past Tuesday will provide listeners with three additional songs to last year's release as well as three acoustic recordings. Nolan describes the intentions behind re-releasing the deluxe version of the album.

"The album includes a few songs from the album that we didn't end up putting on the original," Nolan said. "We really loved the songs and we wanted people to hear it. 'The Complete Recordings' is the best collection from front to back."

Nolan mentions how the

new songs are a diverse mix, with one sounding more of a traditional rock song with its guitar riffs and straining vocals. Those attending the show will get the opportunity to hear them performed live, but will still be able to enjoy the classic hits like "MakeDamnSure," "Cute without the E (Cut from the Team)" and "A Decade Under the Influence."

The ability to blend old favorites with exciting, new tracks is a reflection of the band's evolution and adaptation of style. Lazzara's vocals have been a key factor to keeping the core essence of the band intact and have not fallen off at all despite over 12 years of performing.

Another key factor has been their incredibly widespread appeal that allows them to branch out from their roots in New York and find equal popularity on both coasts. Nolan is looking forward to tonight's show in San Diego for that reason.

"There's a different energy on different coasts," Nolan said. "I love California and it's beautiful. The people are more laid back and the vibe of the people make for a relaxing, fun environment."

Undoubtedly that will be reflected in the band's performance tonight as Taking Back Sunday looks to bring their signature invigorating live show to the House of Blues.

THE VISTA

The No. 1 pick is...

HUNTER JAMESON
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With the 2015 National Football Draft approaching, players and teams have started to prepare for the future. This past weekend the NFL combine was held in Indianapolis, Ind. for the best collegiate talent in the nation to show professional coaches what they are capable of.

A few of the critical tests are the 40-yard dash, bench press, vertical jump, broad jump, and three-cone drill. These tests are what allow coaches to judge the players on an even playing field, while giving them an idea as to what kind of physical shape the players are in.

There are obviously certain positions that are expected to excel at one test more than another. Defensive backs and receivers have tougher critics when it comes to the 40-yard dash and vertical leap, in comparison to an offensive or defensive lineman performing the same tests. While speed is also an important factor in critiquing offensive and defensive lineman, strength is the most important qualification.

Having the No. 1 pick in the draft is most likely considered a blessing, but could also come back to haunt you in the future if you decide to pass on a certain player that has a lot of potential. This year, that pick belongs to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Rumor has it that they have their eyes on the quarterback position, in particular, Jameis Winston from the Florida State Seminoles. Winston won the Heisman Trophy and National Championship two years ago. He has proven to be a leader on the field, but off the field is a different story.

I understand that he has a lot of potential and impressed the scouts during the combine with his throwing performance, but I am still not sold that he deserves to be the No. 1 pick. Marcus Mariota, former University of Oregon Duck, is just as qualified, if not more, in my opinion. They are both Heisman Trophy winners and threw very well at the combine, but one thing that separates Mariota is his speed. He ran a very impressive 4.52 40-yard dash, which is the fastest of any quarterback in the draft class and well above average for the position. Winston, on the other hand, ran a 4.97, which is slower than I expected. Defensive lineman in the NFL can get into the 4.6 range, so Mariota seems to fare a lot better if forced to leave the pocket.

Bryce Petty from Baylor University and Brett Hundley from University of California, Los Angeles are also very talented quarterbacks in the class and could be drafted in the first round. Hundley is a good combination of speed and strength, and should be a very hot topic come draft day. With the first pick in the 2015 NFL Draft, I would select Marcus Mariota, Quarterback, University of Oregon.

Men's tennis upsets No. 21 South Carolina

Toreros win seventh match in a row

HUNTER JAMESON
SPORTS EDITOR
@HJamo

The University of San Diego men's tennis team has performed at a very high level over the past month, including defeating their last seven opponents since the end of January. These victories have earned them the No. 37 ranking in the nation, and they look to rise in the standings very shortly. Some of the wins came against the University of California, Santa Barbara Gauchos, University of Hawai'i Warriors and University of the Pacific Tigers. Their most impressive victory occurred on Feb. 21 against No. 21 University of South Carolina Gamecocks, which took place at the Skip and Cindy Hogan Tennis Center.

The Toreros were ready to face such a tough opponent. Junior Jordan Angus was excited for the opportunity.

"We knew South Carolina was a good team, so we had to make sure we prepared the best we could," Angus said. "We had great energy in practice the whole week which made it a lot easier to play our best on Sunday."

There were several key performances by Toreros that enabled them to get the close victory. One critical win came from sophomore Filip Vittek in a singles competition against senior Kyle Koch. Vittek has won his last eight singles matches and pulled away in the third set for a final of 0-6, 7-6, 6-2.

Each match was incredibly important and Angus recognized that they had the advantage when sophomore Geoffrey Fosso won the first singles match 6-3, 6-2

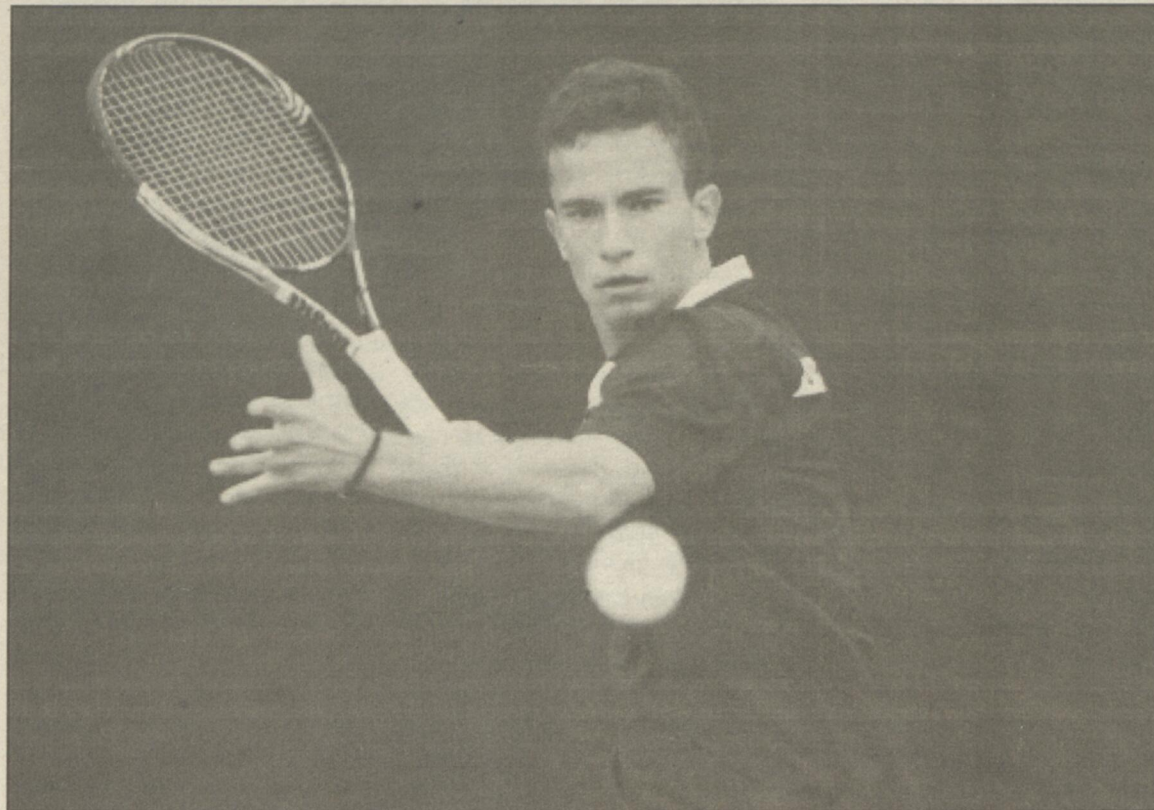


Photo Courtesy of USD Toreros
Junior Uros Petronijevic helped secure the Torero victory, their second against a ranked opponent.

over Gamecock sophomore Sam Swank.

"I think all the wins were important," Angus said. "Geoff gave us a great start by winning his match quickly to put us on the scoreboard, and Filip battled well to come back from a set down and win."

Looking ahead, the Toreros have the Pac Coast Doubles Tournament in La Jolla, Calif. beginning March 8. With several tournaments and West Coast Conference play still to go, the Toreros have many goals for the remainder of the season.

"We all agree that we want to win conference, especially as we were pre-season favorites," Angus said. "We are also aiming to become a

permanent figure in the Top 25, as well as remaining undefeated at home."

Their next match is against the Loyola Marymount Lions on Feb. 27 in Los Angeles, Calif.



Photo Courtesy of USD Athletics
Junior Romaine Kalaydjian celebrates the victory with a teammate.

The week in Torero Athletics

Men's Golf

The men's golf team is in 10th place after two rounds at the Jones Invitational in Valencia, CA. Senior Grant Forrest, and juniors Alex Chiarella and Colin Pearson are all tied for 32 in the Invitational.

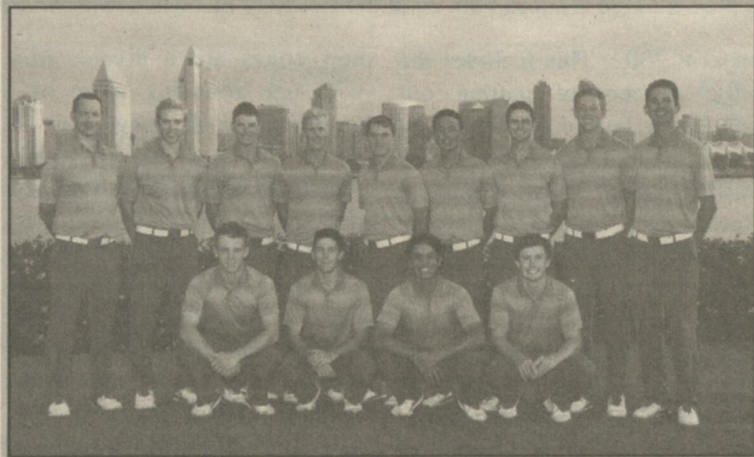


Photo Courtesy of Cara Brown

Swimming

The Torero swim team earned the Scholar All-American Award for posting a 3.12 G.P.A last semester. The award is given to teams who have an overall G.P.A above 3.0.

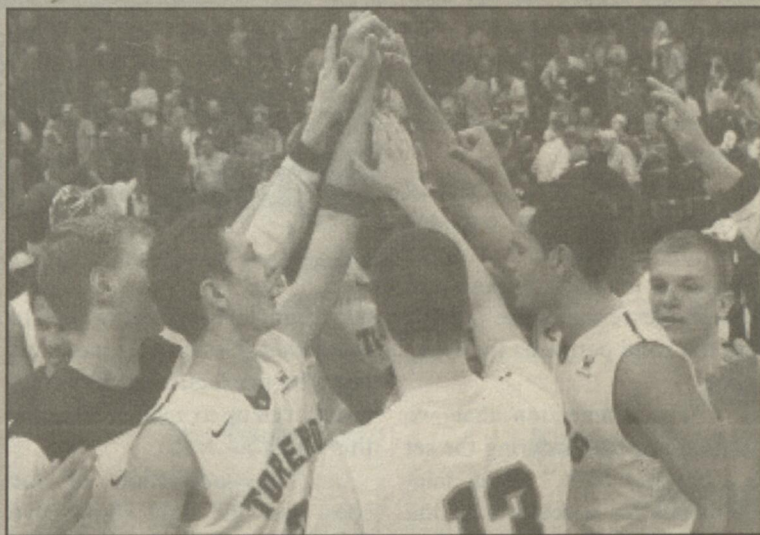


Photo Courtesy of USD Athletics

Men's Basketball

Men's basketball lost at BYU Cougars 75-62. The Toreros travel to Spokane, WA to face No. 3 Gonzaga Bulldogs on Feb. 26. With just two games remaining, USD is currently 6th in the WCC standings at 7-9. The teams ahead of them are the Gonzaga Bulldogs, St. Mary's College, BYU, Pepperdine University and Portland University.

San Diego HockeyFest draws huge crowd

Anaheim Ducks' new minor league team will be called San Diego Gulls

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The wait is finally over. The Anaheim Ducks have announced the name of their new minor league hockey team, and it is a familiar one for hockey fans in San Diego. The Ducks revealed their minor league affiliate's new name and logo at HockeyFest, a free event which took place on Feb. 22 at Valley View Casino Center.

The team will be called the San Diego Gulls, a name which matches that of several minor league teams who have previously played in San Diego. The history of the Gulls began in 1966 when the franchise began playing in the Western Hockey League. After that version of the team ceased operations, the Gulls made a return in 1990 and joined the International Hockey League.

The most recent installment in the Gulls hockey timeline was also the most successful. When the IHL team departed for Los Angeles, the Gulls joined the West Coast Hockey League and won five league championships. That team eventually folded in 2006, and the hockey landscape in San Diego has been desolate ever since.

With this new team, which will begin playing in Valley View Casino Center in the fall of 2015, the San Diego area has become swept up in hockey fever. Lines to get into HockeyFest stretched onto the sidewalks outside and around several street corners, demonstrating the excitement that the latest edition of the Gulls are bringing.

Inside the building there were several family-friendly activities, including a hardest slap shot contest and an inflatable bouncy castle.

The first 1,000 fans received free San Diego Gulls t-shirts, which went very quickly due to the excessive crowd. Valley View Casino Center also ran out of hot dogs within the first hour of the event, which both irritated and inspired the crowd.

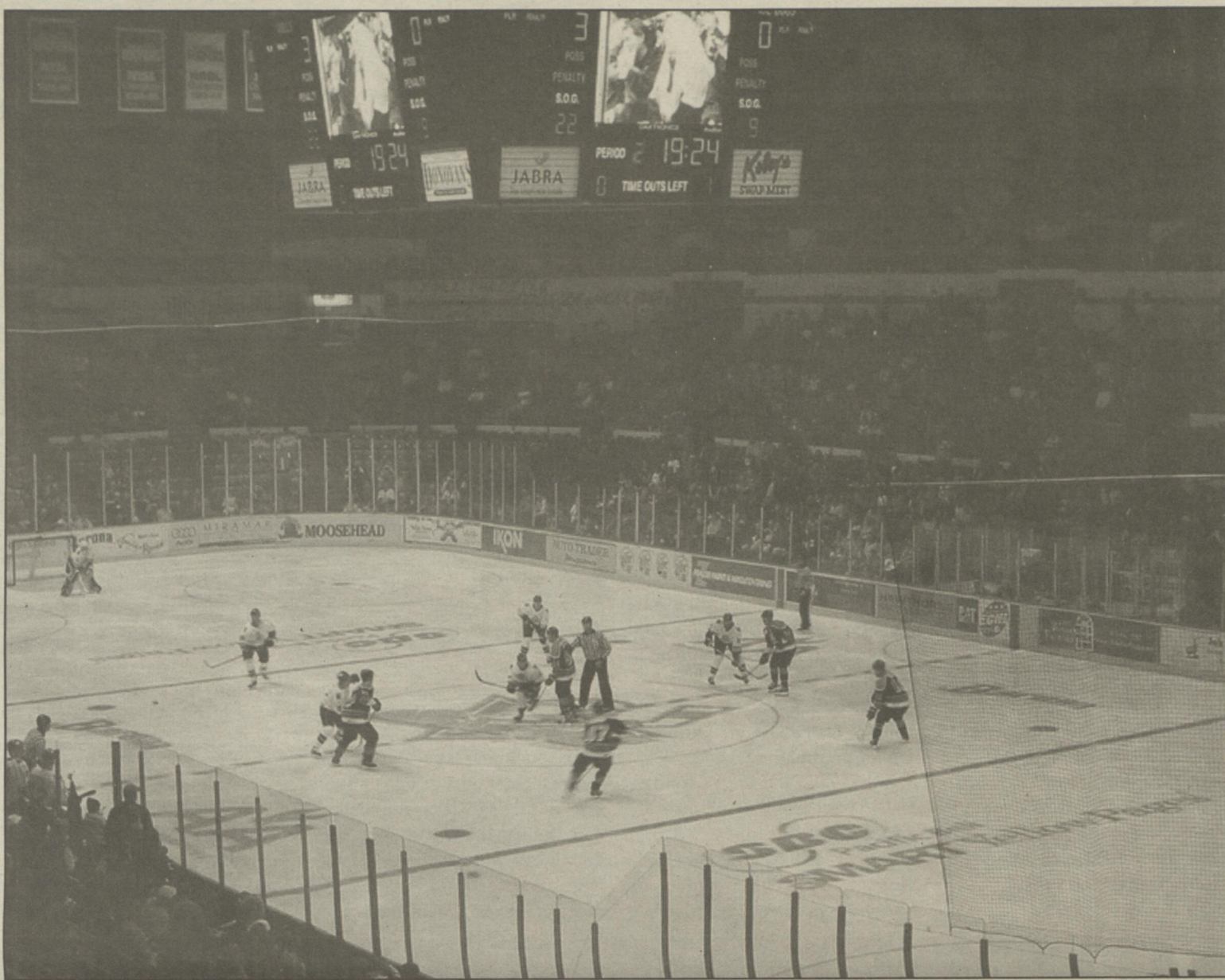


Photo Courtesy of MPR/Flickr

For those unfamiliar with the sport, the AHL is the hockey equivalent of baseball's AAA.

University of San Diego Sophomore Scott Ryan attended HockeyFest with a group of friends, and shared his surprise about the enormous turnout.

"I had no idea there were this many people in San Diego who cared about hockey," Ryan said. "I was lucky enough to get a hot dog before they were gone, but it's pretty cool that enough people showed up and caused them to actually run out. It shows that people are genuinely excited about this new team."

Not only did San Diegans come out in droves to support their new hockey team, but several prominent figures were in attendance as well. San Diego mayor Kevin Faulconer was there to help with the unveiling of the

team's logo, which features an aggressive looking gull wielding a hockey stick. The logo is mostly orange, with a blue trim around

"It will be cool to see all these young guys, especially since they're all basically playing for a shot to make the NHL."

-Scott Ryan

the edges.

Henry and Susan Samuelli, owners of the Anaheim Ducks, also made appearances at HockeyFest. The couple received a standing ovation from the crowd, which featured hundreds of people in Anaheim Ducks jerseys, spanning back to the days of the purple and teal sweaters worn during the 1990s.

The new Gulls will be members of the American Hockey League and serve as a minor league feeder of the Ducks. At

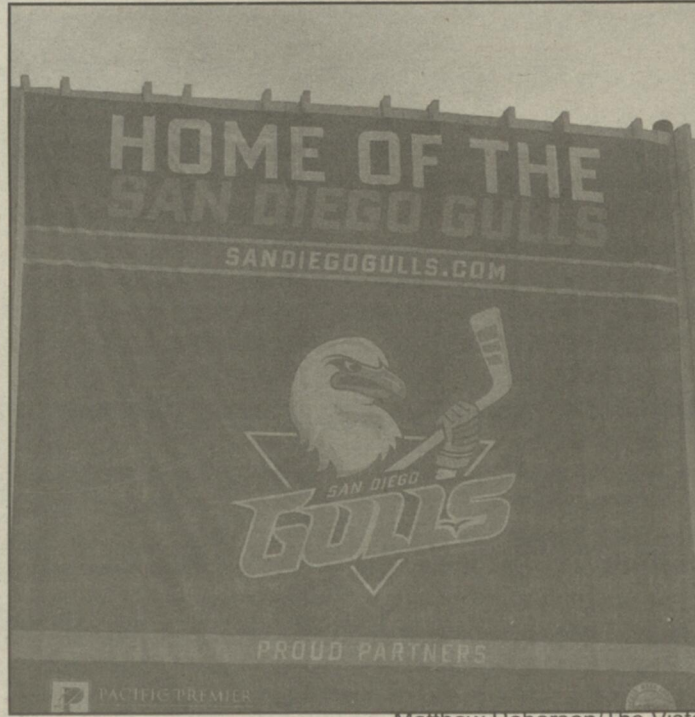
the start of this season, nearly 83 percent of players on NHL rosters had played in the American Hockey League at some point. Ryan discussed his excitement about getting a chance to see minor league players before they become NHL stars.

"It will be cool to see all these young guys, especially since they're all basically playing

for a shot to make the NHL," Ryan said. "I think the Gulls will have some pretty intense games."

Upon entering HockeyFest, fans were given an information packet, which consisted of forms used for ordering season tickets as well as ticket prices for the upcoming season. The packet mentioned that there will be special discount tickets for students, which will cost \$10 and be good for a seat in the arena's upper bowl.

Given the nearby location of the arena, the student discount tickets, and the energetic nature of hockey, the Gulls organization should expect waves of USD students to flood Valley View Casino Center throughout the upcoming season.



Matthew Roberson/The Vista

Left: Fans gather around Valley view Casino Center to celebrate the arrival of the San Diego Gulls. Right: The new logo of the Gulls is on display for fans.

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Baseball loses series vs. Dallas Baptist

Spirits remain high as team struggles out of the gate

KELLY MCPHERSON
CONTRIBUTOR

Toreros baseball hosted another home series this weekend against the Dallas Baptist University Patriots. The first game of the three-game series kicked off Feb. 24 at Fowler park.

The Toreros had a rough start, giving up two runs in the top of the second inning and another in the top of the third. University of San Diego then came back and scored one run in the bottom of the third, making the score 3-1 Patriots.

Senior infielder Austin Bailey lead the team offensively going two for four with one run batted in, which came in the third inning. The Toreros pitchers then held the Patriots until the ninth inning, allowing no runs. The game ended with a solo homerun to left field yielding the final score of 4 to 1 in favor of the Patriots.

The second game of the series began Saturday afternoon, but the Toreros continued to struggle. USD took a 2-0 lead early on.

By the bottom of the fourth inning, the game was tied 4-4. Redshirt freshman infielder Aiden Stinnett led off the inning with a single. Bailey followed by hitting a triple into deep left field scoring Stinnett, and putting himself in scoring position.

Bailey ended up scoring, but unfortunately, the pitching for the toreros took a turn and USD ended up losing 9-4.

The Toreros turned things around Sunday afternoon. Junior pitcher PJ Conlon threw a great game and walked away with a boost in his confidence.

"Personally, this last start on Sunday gave me a lot of confidence for this upcoming week and I'm sure it did for the rest of the team as well," Conlon said. "I'm just going to stick to my process and routine throughout this week to prepare myself to throw again on Sunday."

Conlon had eight strikeouts, only gave up three hits, and didn't allow any runs. The Toreros came out strong, hitting better than any previous game this season, leading to a 6-1 win in their final game of the series.

Despite a rough first two games of the series, sophomore pitcher CJ Burdick is confident in this Torero team.

"Coming off of the win against Dallas Baptist brings a ton of momentum for the team and the way we played," Burdick said. "We are a very good team, and I think at times we beat ourselves and have a hard time seeing the good baseball that we have been playing. If we play like we did on Sunday, we are going to be a very hard team to beat."

Burdick believes that the

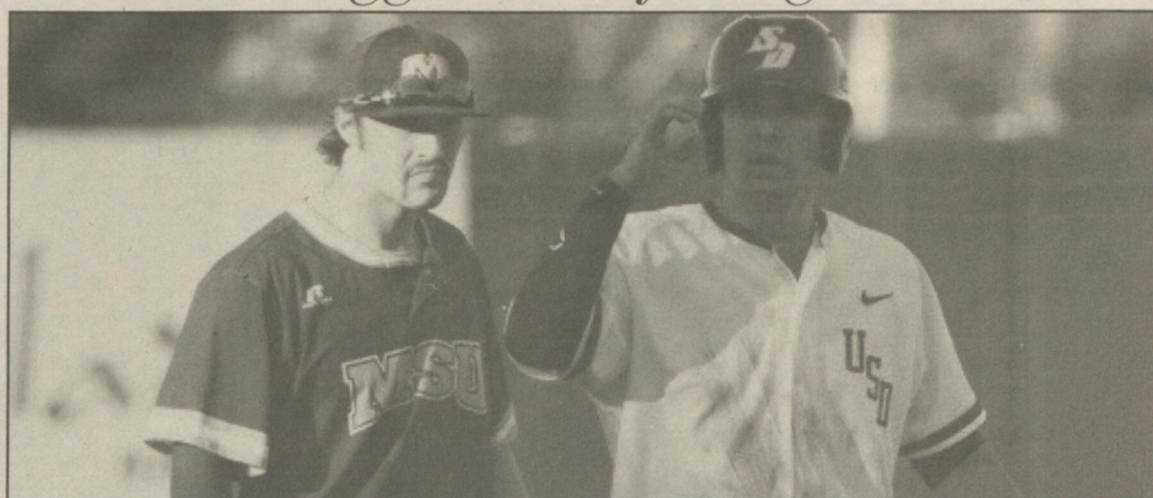
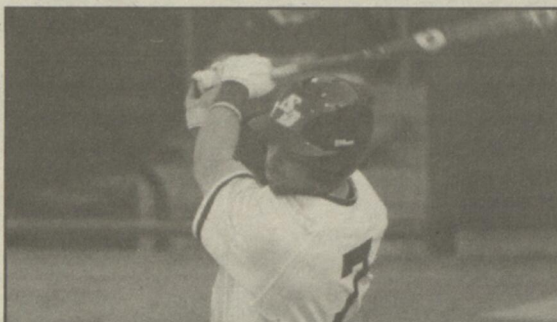


Photo Courtesy of USD Athletics

Sophomore Hunter Mercado-Hood looks at his coaches from third base. He has two RBIs on the season.



Photos Courtesy of USD Athletics

Left: Senior Austin Bailey gets a hit during the series against Morehead State during the opening series.

Right: Junior PJ Conlon delivers a pitch during his start against Dallas Baptist. Conlon allowed zero runs.

team should be more confident in their preparation.

"If we carry that confidence, and desire and know that we have put in the work and we are the team to beat," Burdick said. "We are going to be a very hard team to go up against."

The Toreros take on hometown rival San Diego State

Aztecs on Tuesday, Feb. 24, then travel to Austin, Texas for a series against the University of Texas Longhorns. Heading into this next series, spirits are high for this USD baseball team. Redshirt freshman Aiden Stinnett isn't letting the losses so far phase him.

"We have a great group of guys on this team, and each

one of us has what it takes to make a positive impact on the Texas series," Stinnett said. "We are just going to keep trusting in our process and supporting each other. I feel that our team can go toe to toe with anyone."

The Toreros are hoping for improvement and a few wins in their upcoming series.

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